

Claims

*What is claimed is:*

1. A method of administering a gravity segregating dispersion to a subject by continuous infusion, wherein said dispersion is controllably delivered from an upper or lower extremity of an essentially vertically positioned delivery vessel and thereafter is admixed with a flushing medium prior to administration to the subject.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said delivery vessel comprises a syringe.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein delivery of said dispersion from said syringe is controlled by a syringe driver.
4. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said dispersion is a gas-containing contrast agent.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said gas comprises sulphur hexafluoride or a perfluorinated low molecular weight hydrocarbon.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said perfluorinated hydrocarbon is perfluoropropane or perfluorobutane.
7. A method as claimed in any of claims 4 to 6 wherein said gas is present as albumin-stabilised microbubbles.
8. A method as claimed in any of claims 4 to 6 wherein said gas is present as phospholipid-stabilised microbubbles.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said phospholipid predominantly comprises phosphatidylserine.
10. A method as claimed in any of claims 4 to 9 wherein the delivery vessel comprises a syringe positioned for upward delivery of said contrast agent.
11. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein said flushing medium is normal saline.
12. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the admixed dispersion and flushing medium are administered by injection.
13. Apparatus for use in administration of a gravity segregating dispersion by continuous infusion, said apparatus comprising:
- (i) a delivery device adapted to receive a dispersion-containing delivery vessel in an essentially vertical position and controllably to expel dispersion from an upper or lower extremity of said vessel;

(ii) mixing means adapted to effect admixture of said expelled dispersion with a flushing medium; and

(iii) conduit means adapted to conduct said admixed dispersion and flushing medium to an administration device.

14. Apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said delivery device is a syringe driver adapted to receive an essentially vertically positioned syringe.

10 15. Apparatus as claimed in claim 13 or claim 14 wherein said mixing means comprise a three way connector or tap adapted to connect said delivery vessel and a source of flushing medium to said conduit means.

15 16. Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 13 to 15 which further comprises flow rate controlling means for controlling the rate of flow of said flushing medium.

20 17. Apparatus as claimed in any of claims 13 to 16 which further comprises means for inverting the position of said delivery vessel.

25 18. Use of apparatus as claimed in any of claims 13 to 17 in administration of a gravity segregating dispersion to a subject by continuous infusion.

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